(b) In 1972, Tehri Dam Project (600MW) was initially approved as a State Sector Project to be implemented by Government of U.P. at an estimated cost of Rs. 197.92 crores. The capacity of the Project was enhanced to 1000 MW in 1983. However, in view of the resource constraints faced by the State Government and keeping in view the requirement of power in the Northern Region of the country, it was decided in November, 1986 to implement the Tehri Dam Complex comprising (i) Tehri Dam and Hydro Electric Project (HEP) Stage-I (1000 MW). (ii) Koteshwar Dam and Power Project (400 MW) and (iii) Tehri Pump Storage Plan (PSP) (1000 MW) as a joint venture of Government of India and the Government of Uttar Pradesh. These projects are being executed through the Tehri Hydro Development Corporation (THDC).

In March, 1994, approval was accorded to the Tehri Hydro Development Corporation for implementing the Tehri Dam and HEP Stage-I (1000 MW) at an estimated cost of Rs. 3391.40 (March, 1993 Price Level) including IDC of Rs. 427.74 crores. The cost estimates included the committed works of Koteshwar HEP and essential works of Tehri PSP.

The revised cost estimates of the Tehri HEP Stage-I (1000 MW) including essential works of Tehri PSP are Rs. 5690.64 Crores (August 1999 Price Level) including IDC and financial charges. The increase in the cost, apart from normal escalation, has been due to various factors including design changes to ensure safety of the Dam in the context of the seismicity of the region, additional measures for rehabilitation of project affected families based on the recommendations of Hanumantha Rao Committees, availing of specialized consultancy services, foreign exchange variation and variation in statutory duties and levies, etc.

Accident in the NTPC Cooling Tower Project at Vishakhapatnam

3270. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any accident took place in the NTPC Cooling Tower Project under construction at Vishakhapatnam during the last week of March, 2001.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any enquiries have been conducted into the causes of the accident and responsibilities fixed therefor;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any compensation has been paid in respect of those who have died or were injured as a result of the accident; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) An accident took place in Cooling Tower No. 1 at Simhadri Thermal Power Project of the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) on 28th March, 2001. The construction work of Cooling Tower is being executed by M/s National Building Construction Corporation (NBCC), a Government of India Undertaking, under a turnkey contract. The temporary access to facilitate transport of material was made of scaffolding pipes to the height of 165 meters. This temporary access scaffolding collapsed at about 10.30 PM on 28th March, 2001 due to which six persons of sub-contractor of M/s NBCC succumbed to injuries and one person who was admitted to hospital was discharged on 6.6.2001.

(c) and (d) A high level Enquiry Committee had been constituted by NTPC to enquire into the accident. The Committee submitted its report. The Committee feels that the cumulative factors like accidental jamming of the concrete bucket with the structure resulting in loosening of some couplers and loss of some members, possible loosening of some of the couplers of the scaffolding contributed to the accident and that the responsibility lies with M/s NBCC. The Committee suggested various recommendations to M/s NBCC to prevent recurrence of similar accident.

(e) and (f) An *ex-gratia* of Rs. 2.50 lakh to each family of those killed in the accident has been paid by M/s NBCC. Besides, statutory payment of about Rs. 2.00 lakh as compensation under Workmen's Compensation Act is also being paid. Further, the treatment charges of the injured person as well as salary for that period has been paid by M/s NBCC.

Construction of power plants

3271. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased state:

(a) the number of power plants under construction for the last three years in Uttar Pradesh, Orissa, Uttaranchal, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and North-Eastern Region; and